

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the herein remarks, which place the application in condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are pending in this application. The language of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1 and claim 7 has been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims in continuing applications. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

The specification has been amended to correct the typographical error with respect to units of measurement for surface area (see Table 1 and lines 15 on page 3 for examples of correct units of measurement for surface area).

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. §112, 2ND PARAGRAPH REJECTIONS HAS BEEN OVERCOME

Claim 9 was rejected as allegedly failing to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Although the limitation is believed to be redundant, the applicants have amended the claim to indicate that the viscosity is measured at room temperature.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. 102(b) REJECTION HAS BEEN OVERCOME

Claim 14 was rejected as allegedly being anticipated by Litteral (U.S. Patent 3,694,405).

The applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion to substitute the term "obtainable" with ---obtained--- which obviates this rejection.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. 103(a) REJECTION HAS BEEN OVERCOME

Claim 16 was rejected as allegedly being obvious over Litteral (U.S. Patent 3,694,405). The applicants' have amended the claim to be dependent upon the allowable subject matter of claims 1 and 14 which renders this rejection moot.

V. RULE 1.105 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

As noted during the personal interview of 6 June 2006, the applicants cannot guarantee to the Examiner that the applicants would be able to provide information regarding the properties of all previously known resins as the literature may be unavailable or unpublished. Moreover, the Examiner is not held responsible for literature which is unavailable or unpublished; the responsibility is only to conduct a thorough search in compliance with the guidance provided in Chapter 900 of the MPEP.

In any event, it is believed that the request for information has been rendered moot by the applicant's claim limitations which encompass Lewatit as a resin and is narrower in scope than the originally filed claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned to advance prosecution. The Commission is authorized to charge any fee occasioned by this paper, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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